

Robert P. Ernst
Naval Air Systems Command
Bldg 2185, Unit 6, Room 2122
22347 Cedar Point Road
Patuxent River, MD 20670-1161
<mailto:ernstrp@navair.navy.mil>
(301) 342-2203 voice (301)342-2248 fax

Deputy for Research & Development Ownership Cost Reduction Efforts,
Naval Air Systems Command, Patuxent River, MD

Mr. Ernst earned his bachelor's degree in Aerospace Engineering from the University of Maryland, and began his professional career in the Aerodynamics and Flight Controls Branch, where he was responsible for developing computer based analysis of aircraft performance and air combat maneuvering. Following involvement in the F-14D engine selection and Adversary Aircraft Programs, Mr. Ernst joined the Systems Engineering Division as F-14 Project Engineer where he was responsible for a series of avionics upgrades and structural modifications.

In 1986, Mr. Ernst was selected as the Sr. Project Engineer for the S-3 and ES-3 Programs, responsible for design, development, test and evaluation of the ES-3 Modification Program. He directed a series of operational and service life improvements for both weapon systems including the creation of a Service Life Assessment Program and a series of critical avionics upgrades to counter the effects of increasing avionics obsolescence and poor reliability. In addition, he was designated Deputy Program Manager for S-3 avionics in 1998.

In March of 1999, Mr. Ernst was selected to head the newly established Aging Aircraft Program and currently serves as the Deputy for Research and Development Ownership Cost Reduction Efforts. He coordinates all R&D funding directed to countering the effects of aging aircraft, and coordinating age studies and investigations with the Federal Aviation Administration, Air Force and NASA.

Mr. Ernst is a 1996 graduate of the Defense Systems Management College, Advanced Program Manager's Course. His awards include runner up for the Navy Streamlining Award in 1989 and Competition in Contracting award in 1994. In 1996 he was awarded the Meritorious Service Medal.

Logistics Challenges with an Aging Fleet